

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office action of July 24, 2007. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 10 and 13-27 will be pending in this application, with Claims 10 and 18 being the independent claims. Claim 10 has been amended, and Claim 12 is canceled herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,741 (Davies) and European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 927 941 A2 (Almeida). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 10 to recite the features of dependent Claim 12, which the Examiner indicated was directed to allowable subject matter. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is requested.

This Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed the prior amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Moreover, entry and consideration of this amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The amendment overcomes all of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action. The amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. Additionally, the present amendment places the application in better form for appeal, which Applicant fully intends to pursue, if necessary. Therefore, entry and consideration of the present amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and are hereby requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 10 and 18 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also believed to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

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